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Daisuke Sakiyama

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EXAMINER

LEE, CHUN KUAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2181

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/17/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/775,080

Applicant(s)

SAKIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 - 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

1. Applicant's arguments filed 07/24/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Objection to claims 1-2 and 5 in the preceding office action is withdrawn. Currently, claims 1-16 are pending for examination.
2. In response to applicant's arguments, on page 9, 1st and 2nd paragraph, regarding the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that the combination of references failed to teach/suggest every claimed limitation because Terajima teaches communication results and device ID, which are not image data, can be stored in an expansion memory; applicant's arguments have fully been considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

Please note that one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Additionally, as disclosed in the applicant's remarks, Utsunomiya and Kisaki does teach the storing of image data in an expansion memory (Utsunomiya, hard drive and Kisaki, second memory device) (Remarks, page 9, 1st and 2nd paragraph).

As similar arguments as presented above for independent claims 1 and 14 towards independent claim 8, on page 10, 2nd paragraph, the examiner will also apply the above response towards independent claim 8.

3. In response to applicant's arguments, on page 9, 4th paragraph and page 11, 2nd paragraph, regarding the rejection of independent claim 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that rejection failed to articulate a reason to combine the known elements as disclosed by the references and that the motivation/suggestion to combine the references are improperly derived from applicant's disclosure; applicant's arguments have fully been considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

With regard to the applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, please note that it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

As disclosed in the preceding office action, the reason/motivation to combine Kizaki with Utsunomiya is for the benefit of providing efficient transfer of image data concerning the primary memory device while using the second memory device having a larger volume as image memory (Kizaki, [0014]); and the reason/motivation to combine

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Terajima with Utsunomiya and Kizaki is for the benefit of ensuring that the external memory is properly connected before data transferring increasing the data transferring integrity (Terajima, col. 5, ll. 3-9), and further more, also provide the benefit of reducing the cost of the printer as memory is saved (Terajima, col. 1, l. 52 to col. 2, l. 5).

4. In response to applicant's arguments, on page 10, last paragraph to page 11, 1st paragraph, regarding the rejection of independent claim 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that the combination of references failed to teach/suggest a memory device for storing input image data; applicant's arguments have fully been considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

Please note that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., memory device for storing input image data) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

5. In response to applicant's arguments, on page 11, 1st paragraph, regarding the rejection of independent claim 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that the combination of references failed to teach/suggest a mountable expansion memory device for storing image data; applicant's arguments have fully been considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

Applicant's argument is not fully understood by the examiner, as in the applicant's remark, the applicant conceded that Utsunomiya and Kisaki does teach an mountable expansion memory device (Utsunomiya, hard drive and Kisaki, second memory device) utilized for storing image data (Remarks, page 9, 1st and 2nd paragraph); therefore Utsunomiya and Kisaki does contemplate the use of external memory to store image data.

More specifically, as disclosed in the preceding office action, Utsunomiya does teach a mountable expansion memory device (external memory 1043 of Fig. 2-3) for storing image data (Fig. 3, ref. 1043, 3011, 3013), wherein the hard drive is mounted as external memory for storing print data (col. 5, ll. 5-16).

6. In response to applicant's arguments, on page 11, 2nd paragraph, regarding the rejection of independent claim 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that the combination of references failed to teach/suggest every claimed limitation because Terajima's sensing an external device is with respect to a communication result not image data; applicant's arguments have fully been considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

Please note that one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Furthermore, as disclosed in the applicant's remarks, Utsunomiya and Kisaki does teach an expansion memory utilized in association with image data (Utsunomiya,

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hard drive and Kisaki, second memory device) (Remarks, page 9, 1st and 2nd paragraph); furthermore, Terajima's communication result is associated with image data, as the communication result is the image data being transferred and stored to be printed by the facsimile apparatus.

7. In response to applicant's arguments, on page 11, 2nd paragraph, regarding the rejection of independent claim 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that Utsunomiya and Kisaki fail to contemplate the use of external memory to store image data; applicant's arguments have fully been considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

Applicant's argument is not fully understood by the examiner, as in the applicant's remark, the applicant conceded that Utsunomiya and Kisaki does teach an expansion memory (Utsunomiya, hard drive and Kisaki, second memory device) utilized for storing image data (Remarks, page 9, 1st and 2nd paragraph); therefore Utsunomiya and Kisaki does contemplate the use of external memory to store image data.

I. INFORMATION CONCERNING OATH/DECLARATION

Oath/Declaration

8. The applicant's oath/declaration has been reviewed by the examiner and is found to conform to the requirements prescribed in 37 C.F.R. 1.63.

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING DRAWINGS

Drawings

9. The applicant's drawings submitted are acceptable for examination purposes.

III. OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

Claim Objections

10. Claims 9 and 14 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 9, line 1, "(Previously Presented)" should be replaced with -(Currently Amended)-.

In claim 14, line 1, "(Previously Presented)" should be replaced with -(Currently Amended)-.

Appropriate correction is required.

IV. REJECTIONS BASED ON 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

11. Claim 5 and 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the processed job image data" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 9 recites the limitation "the processed job image data" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 9 recites the limitation "the input image data" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

As per claim 5, it is unclear to the examiner as to which "processed job image data" the applicant is referring to; the examiner will assume the following claimed limitation of "processed input job image data" for the current examination.

As per claim 9, it is unclear to the examiner as to which "processed job image data" the applicant is referring to; the examiner will assume the following claimed limitation of "processed image data" for the current examination.

As per claim 9, it is unclear to the examiner as to which "the input image data" the applicant is referring to; the examiner will assume the following claimed limitation of "processed image data" for the current examination.

V. REJECTIONS BASED ON PRIOR ART

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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12. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Utsunomiya (US Patent 6,999,186) in view of Kisaki (US Pub.: 2003/0035142), and further in view of Terajima (US Patent 5,309,251).

13. As per claims 1 and 8, Utsunomiya teaches a data outputting printer, comprising:
a receiving unit (input/output module 3000 of Fig. 3) that receives print jobs;
a processing memory (Fig. 2, ref. 1037 and Fig. 3, ref. 1037, 3008, 3009) that processes (i.e. processes by converting job image data to raster images) input job image data (image data) for print jobs received by said receiving unit (Fig. 3 and col. 5, ll. 40-67);

an output unit (printer 1030 of Fig. 3) that, after processing of the job image data sent to said processing memory, outputs (e.g. prints) said processed job image data during a first output session (col. 8, ll. 28-40), wherein the first output session is resulted from either the implementing the multiple-copy print or the single-copy print as the first copy is printed on the printer;

a mounting unit for mounting an expansion memory (external memory 1043 of Fig. 2-3) used for image data storage (Fig. 3, ref. 1043, 3011, 3013), wherein the hard drive is mounted as external memory for storing print data (col. 5, ll. 5-16); and

a controller (printer controller 1031 and memory controller 1044 of Fig. 2) that, when said job image data is to be output multiple times (e.g. multiple-copy print) (col. 5, ll. 5-32; col. 6, ll. 20-44 and col. 8, ll. 28-40),

stores the job image data in a storage destination memory (e.g. either the internal memory RAM 1037 or the external hard disk 1043 of Fig. 2-3) for a second output session and beyond (col. 5, l. 40 to col. 6, l. 44), wherein the job image data is stored in either the internal memory RAM or the external hard disk for printing the first copy, the second copy and beyond, and

reads out said job image data from the storage destination memory and performs output for the second output session onward using the output unit (col. 5, l. 40 to col. 6, l. 44), as the stored job image data is read out from the corresponding storage destination memory and printed by the printer.

Utsunomiya does not teach the data outputting printer, comprising:

a detection unit that detects whether or not the expansion memory is mounted to said mounting unit; and the controller that,

selects, one of a first storage and second storage destination memories for storing the image data of the second output session and beyond based on the detection of said detection unit ... reads out said job image data from the selected storage destination memory and executes printing for the second copy onward via said output (printer) unit.

Kizaki teaches an image forming apparatus such as a digital copier, a facsimile machine, a printer, and a scanner ([0002]) comprising a data input/output control unit (Fig. 6, ref. 600) implementing multiple copies as a first copy is stored in and output from a primary memory device (semiconductor memory) (Fig. 6, ref. 606) and a second

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and following copies are stored in and output from the secondary memory device (hard disk drive: HDD) (Fig. 6, ref. 607) ([0117]-[0118]);

Utsunomiya and Kizaki are analogous art because they are from same field of endeavor as both are associated with printing of data via a printer.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Kizaki's printing of the first copy from the primary memory device and the second and following copy from the secondary memory device into Utsunomiya's printer for the benefit of providing efficient transfer of image data concerning the primary memory device while using the second memory device having a larger volume as image memory (Kizaki, [0014]) to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1 and 8. The resulting combination of the references further teaches the data outputting printer, comprising:

the controller that,

prints out the first copy from the primary memory device (e.g. the second storage destination memory) as the (job) image data is stored in the primary memory device and is outputted via the printer unit; and

prints out the second and following copies from the secondary memory device (e.g. first storage destination memory) as the (job) image data is to be stored in the secondary memory device for the second and following copies and is outputted via the printer unit.

Terajima teaches a facsimile apparatus with a printing function comprising:

a sensor (Fig. 1, ref. 119) utilized for detecting whether or not an external memory (Fig. 1, ref. 109) is coupled to the control unit (Fig. 1 and col. 3, l. 11 to col. 4, l. 14); and

a controller (Fig. 1, ref. 101) that selects the storing of the received communication data in an internal RAM processing memory (Fig. 1, ref. 115) if the sensor does not detect the presence of the external memory (col. 4, ll. 14-20) and if the external memory is detected to be present, the received communication data is to be stored in the external memory (col. 3, l. 62 to col. 4, l. 4), and prints the received communication data from either the internal RAM processing memory or the external memory, depending where it was stored earlier (col. 4, ll. 47-64).

Utsunomiya and Terajima are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor as both are associated with the function of printing data.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention, was made to include Terajima's sensor into Utsunomiya and Kizaki's printer for the benefit of ensuring that the external memory is properly connected before data transferring, increasing the data transferring integrity (Terajima, col. 5, ll. 3-9), and further more, also provide the benefit of reducing the cost of the printer as memory is saved (Terajima, col. 1, l. 52 to col. 2, l. 5) to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1 and 8. The resulting combination of the references further teaches data outputting printer, comprising:

the sensor (i.e. detection unit) utilized for detecting whether or not the external memory (i.e. expansion memory) has been mounted to said mounting unit; and

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the controller selecting to store image data in either the primary memory device or the secondary memory device for the second output session and beyond based on the sensor's detection, such that,

if the sensor detects that the external memory is mounted, prints out the first copy from the primary memory device (e.g. second storage destination memory) as the image data is stored in the primary memory device, and stores the image data in the primary memory device into the secondary memory device (e.g. first storage destination memory) for implementing the print out of the second and following copies from the secondary memory device; and

if the sensor detects that the external memory is not mounted, stores the input (job) image into the primary memory (e.g. second storage destination memory) and prints out the second and following copies utilizing the image data stored in the primary memory (e.g. second storage destination memory); and

therefore, printing (e.g. reads out) the (job) image data from the selected storage destination memory and executes printing for the second copy onward via the printer unit.

14. As per claim 2, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Terajima further teaches the data outputting printer comprising wherein when said detection unit detects that the expansion memory is mounted, said controller stores the processed job image data used for said second output session onward in said expansion memory (i.e. external memory), and when said

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detection unit detects that the expansion memory is not mounted, said controller stores the input job image data used for said second output session onward in said processing memory (i.e. internal RAM) (Terajima, Fig. 3 and col. 3, l. 11 to col. 4, l. 14), wherein the input job image data is stored into the external memory only if the sensor detects the presence of the external memory, if the external memory is not present, the input job image data is stored in the internal RAM.

15. As per claim 3, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 2 as discussed above, where Utsunomiya and Terajima further teach the data outputting printer comprising wherein if it is detected by said detection unit that the expansion memory is mounted, said controller outputs the job image data processed in said processing memory as is for the first output session (Utsunomiya, Fig. 2-3 and Terajima, col. 3, l. 11 to col. 4, l. 14), wherein the communication result is first stored in the RAM (processing memory) then later transferred to the external memory and prior to printing, if the external memory is removed, the data is printed from the RAM.

16. As per claim 4, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Terajima further teaches the data outputting printer comprising wherein said controller determines the storage format for the job image data used for the second output session onward in accordance with the results of the detection by said detection unit (Terajima, Fig. 6 and col. 5, ll. 29-50), wherein if data is stored on the external memory, the data would require proper formatting by the serial

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interface circuit for performing serial communication for data between the control unit and the external memory.

17. As per claim 5, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 4 as discussed above, where Terajima further teaches the data outputting printer comprising wherein the job is a print job sent from an external device, and when the mounting of an expansion memory is detected by said detection unit, said controller stores the processed input job image data in said expansion memory as image data resulting from processing in said processing memory, and when the mounting of an expansion memory is not detected by the detection unit, said controller stores the input job image data in said processing memory in an original format existing prior to its processing in said processing memory (Terajima, Fig. 6; col. 3, l. 11 to col. 4, l. 14 and col. 5, ll. 29-50), wherein if the external memory is detected, the data is stored in the external memory after being properly processed by being formatted for serial communication and if the external memory is not detected, data is stored in the RAM without implementing the serial formatting.

18. As per claim 6, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Utsunomiya further teaches the data outputting printer comprising at least one compression/decompression unit (i.e. compression/expand unit) that compresses data and decompresses compressed data (Utsunomiya, col. 2, ll. 8-67 and col. 7, ll. 22-32).

19. As per claim 7, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 6 as discussed above, where Utsunomiya further teaches the data outputting printer comprising wherein said expansion memory stores data compressed by said at least one compression/decompression unit (Utsunomiya, col. 2, ll. 8-67 and col. 7, ll. 22-32), wherein data are compressed before being stored.

20. As per claim 9, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 8 as discussed above, where Utsunomiya and Terajima further teach the data outputting printer comprising wherein when said detection unit detects that the expansion memory is mounted, said controller stores the processed image data used for printing of a second copy onward in said expansion memory, and when said detection unit detects that an expansion memory is not mounted, said controller stores the processed image data used for printing of the second copy onward in said processing memory (Utsunomiya, Fig. 2-3 and Terajima, Fig. 3 and col. 3, l. 11 to col. 4, l. 14).

21. As per claim 10, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 9 as discussed above, where Utsunomiya and Terajima further teach the data outputting printer comprising wherein if it is detected by said detection unit that the expansion memory is mounted, said controller prints out the first copy using the image

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data processed in said processing memory (Utsunomiya, Fig. 2-3 and Terajima, col. 3, l. 11 to col. 4, l. 14).

22. As per claim 11, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 8 as discussed above, where Terajima further teach the data outputting printer comprising wherein said controller determines a storage format for image data used for the second copy onward in accordance with the results of the detection by said detection unit (Terajima, Fig. 6 and col. 5, ll. 29-50), wherein if data is stored on the external memory, the data would require proper formatting by the serial interface circuit for performing serial communication for data between the control unit and the external memory.

23. Claims 12-13 repeat the limitations of claims 6-7 and are therefore rejected accordingly.

24. As per claims 14, Utsunomiya teaches a printer, comprising:
a receiving unit (input/output module 3000 of Fig. 3) that receives print jobs;
a work memory (RAM 1037 of Fig. 3) that includes a storage area (Fig. 3, ref. 1032, 3007) used for storing input image data, as well as a processing area (Fig. 3, ref. 3008, 3009) used for processing (process by converting) image data to raster images for received print jobs (Fig. 3 and col. 5, ll. 40-67);

a printer unit (printer 1030 of Fig. 3) that prints image data after it has been processed in said processing area during (col. 5, l. 40 to col. 6, l. 44);

a mounting unit used for mounting an expansion memory (external memory 1043 of Fig. 2) used for data storage (HD 1043 of Fig. 3), wherein the hard drive is mounted as external memory for storing print data (col. 5, ll. 5-16);

a controller (printer controller 1031 and memory controller 1044 of Fig. 2) that, where the print job is a job in which multiple copies of identical images are to be printed (e.g. multiple-copy print) (col. 5, ll. 17-32; col. 6, ll. 20-44 and col. 8, ll. 28-40), printing out a first copy, a second copy and onward of the processed image data in said work memory or from an expansion memory.

Utsunomiya does not teach the printer, comprising:

a detection unit that detects whether an expansion memory has been mounted to said mounting unit; and the controller that, (i) and when said detection unit detects that an expansion memory is mounted, ... and (ii) when said detection unit detects that an expansion memory is not mounted

Kizaki teaches an image forming apparatus such as a digital copier, a facsimile machine, a printer, and a scanner ([0002]) comprising a data input/output control unit (Fig. 6, ref. 600) implementing multiple copies as a first copy is stored in and output from a primary memory device (semiconductor memory) (Fig. 6, ref. 606) and a second and following copies are stored in and output from the secondary memory device (hard disk drive: HDD) (Fig. 6, ref. 607) ([0117]-[0118]);

Utsunomiya and Kizaki are analogous art because they are from same field of endeavor as both are associated with printing of data via a printer.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Kizaki's printing of the first copy from the primary memory device and the second and following copy from the secondary memory device into Utsunomiya's printer for the benefit of providing efficient transfer of image data concerning the primary memory device while using the second memory device having a larger volume as image memory (Kizaki, [0014]) to obtain the invention as specified in claim 14. The resulting combination of the references further teaches the printer comprising the controller that

prints out the first copy from the primary memory device (i.e. semiconductor memory such as the work memory) as the processed image data is stored in the primary memory device; and

prints out the second and following copies from the secondary memory device (i.e. external memory such as the HDD) as the processed image data is to be stored in the secondary memory device for the second and following copies.

Terajima teaches a facsimile apparatus with a printing function comprising:
a sensor (Fig. 1, ref. 119) utilized for detecting whether or not a external memory (Fig. 1, ref. 109) is coupled to the control unit (Fig. 1 and col. 3, l. 11 to col. 4, l. 14);
and

a controller (Fig. 1, ref. 101) that selects the storing of the received communication data in an internal RAM processing memory (Fig. 1, ref. 115) if the sensor does not detect the presence of the external memory (col. 4, ll. 14-20) and if the external memory is detected to be present, the received communication data is to be stored in the external memory (col. 3, l. 62 to col. 4, l. 4), and prints the received communication data from either the internal RAM processing memory or the external memory, depending where it was stored earlier (col. 4, ll. 47-64).

Utsunomiya and Terajima are analogous art because they are from same field of endeavor as both are associated with the function of printing data.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Terajima's sensor into Utsunomiya and Kizaki's printer for the benefit of ensuring that the external memory is properly connected before data transferring increasing the data transferring integrity (Terajima, col. 5, ll. 3-9), and further more, also provide the benefit of reducing the cost of the printer as memory is saved (Terajima, col. 1, l. 52 to col. 2, l. 5) to obtain the invention as specified in claim 14. The resulting combination of the references further teaches the printer comprising:

the sensor (i.e. detection unit) utilized for detecting whether or not the external memory (i.e. expansion memory) has been mounted to said mounting unit;

the controller that,

when the sensor detect that the external memory is mounted, prints out the first copy from the primary memory device (i.e. semiconductor memory such

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as the work memory and the internal RAM) as the image data is stored in the primary memory device, and

stores the image data in the primary memory device into the secondary memory device for implement the print out of the second and following copies from the secondary memory device (i.e. external memory such as the external HDD); and

when the sensor detects that the external memory is not mounted, prints out the second and following copies utilizing the image data stored in the primary memory.

25. As per claim 15, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 14 as discussed above, where Utsunomiya further teach the data outputting printer comprising at least one compression/decompression unit that compress image data input from said processing area, decompress compressed image data and output decompressed image data to said processing area (Utsunomiya, col. 2, ll. 8-67 and col. 7, ll. 22-32), since data are compressed before being stored, said data must also be decompressed before being printed.

26. As per claim 16, Utsunomiya, Kizaki and Terajima teach all the limitations of claim 15 as discussed above, where Utsunomiya further teach the data outputting printer comprising wherein said expansion memory stores image data compressed by

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said at least one compression/decompression unit (Utsunomiya, col. 2, ll. 8-67 and col. 7, ll. 22-32), wherein data are compressed before being stored.

VI. CLOSING COMMENTS

Conclusion

a. STATUS OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

The following is a summary of the treatment and status of all claims in the application as recommended by M.P.E.P. 707.07(i):

a(1) CLAIMS REJECTED IN THE APPLICATION

Per the instant office action, claims 1-16 have received a final action on the merits. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period; then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

b. DIRECTION OF FUTURE CORRESPONDENCES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-0671. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM to 5PM.

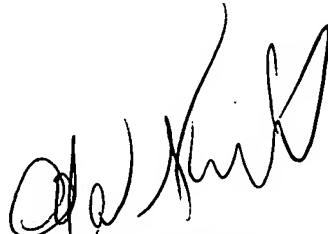
IMPORTANT NOTE

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alford Kindred can be reached on (571) 272-4037. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

September 12, 2007

Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee
Examiner
Art Unit 2181



**ALFORD KINDRED
PRIMARY EXAMINER**